Production of Pulses

2702. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of pulses had remained stagnant during the last three years; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) what steps have been taken to goost the production of pulses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Production of pulses during last three years has been as under:

Year	Production (million tonnes)
1985-86	13.4
1986-87	11.7
1987-88	11.0
1988-89 (likely) . . .	14.00 to 14. 5

Reasons

(1) Susceptibility of pulses to weather vageries.

(2) Risky nature of these crops.

(3) Pulses do not easily land itself for genetic engineering.

(4) Higher susceptibility to pests and diseases.

(5) Shift in area from good to poor and marginal lands in the irrigated area.

(b) To increase the production of pulses following strategy has been adopted:—

(1) Introduction of pulses crops in irrigated farming system through popularisation of multiple cropping;

(2) Bringing additional area under:—

(i) In summer pulses with irrigation after mustard, sugarcane, potato and wheat; and

(ii) Under short duration Arhar in rotation with wheat in Northern States.

(iii) Short duration varieties of urd, moong etc. in rice fallows by utilising the residual moisture in rabi season;

(3) Inter-cropping of arhar in soyabean, bajra, cotton, sugarcane and groundnut both under irrigated and unirrigated conditions;

(4) Increased use of inputs like improved seeds, adoption of plant protection measures; use of phosphatic fertilizers and rhizobium culture;

(5) Price support operation through NAFED.

2703. [*Transferred to the 27th March, 1989*]

Establishment of National Research Centre under ICAR

2704. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government are planning to establish a National Research Centre for allied fibres at Vizianagram in Andhra Pradesh to operate under the ageis of ICAR; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Centre will undertake research on production aspects of mainly three allied fibres, viz., mesta, sisal and flax.

Establishment of new fishing Harbours in the Country

2705. SHRI KAHNU CHARAN LENKA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how many fishing harbours are there at present in the country;

(b) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to establish new fishing harbours; and